



Dr. Grover J. (Russ) Whitehurst

Russ Whitehurst is a widely respected and influential leader in education in the U.S. and around the world. As director of the Brown Center on Education Policy at the venerable Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., he is responsible for shaping public and political opinion on education policy by bringing together experts and policymakers for public and private conversations, synthesizing research on issues of importance, and disseminating information and policy recommendations through his own writing and public appearances.

As the first director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) within the U.S. Department of Education, Russ is widely acknowledged to have had a transforming effect on the quality, relevance, and utilization of education research. Under his leadership, IES received numerous accolades including the Office of Management and Budget's highest and seldom-awarded program rating of "effective," with a citation for having, "transformed the quality and rigor of education research within the Department of Education and increased the demand for scientifically based evidence of effectiveness in the education field as a whole."

Prior to his federal service, Russ was a highly productive university-based researcher, with millions of dollars in external funding for his projects, over 100 publications, the editorship of a leading scientific journal, and a high impact on other scholars in his field. A program he developed to enhance school readiness in children from low-income families, called Dialogic Reading, is widely used in preschools around the world. He was a pioneer in delivering college-level instruction through the internet, for which he was awarded the Microsoft Innovators in Higher Education Award in 1996.

In addition to his successful administrative experience in leading IES and directing the Brown Center at Brookings, Russ is an experienced academic administrator. He served as the chair of the highly ranked Department of Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and was academic vice-president of the Merrill-Palmer Institute in Michigan.

Russ is a media-savvy communicator and sought-after public speaker. He has appeared on the CBS Evening News, NBC Evening News, Anderson Cooper, and Fox News. He has been interviewed and written about by the Washington Post, the New York Times, U.S.A. Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education, EdWeek, and many other print outlets. He has given congressional testimony on numerous occasions, and has delivered hundreds of speeches and public presentations, including major addresses on education and public policy at national and international events.

Russ has had a significant influence of international education policy through his service as head of the U.S. delegation to the Education Policy Committee of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, his membership on the Board of Directors of the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, his involvement in planning UNESCO literacy conferences, and his work on improving teacher quality for the G8-Broader Middle East North Africa Initiative. He has contacts in education ministries around the world.